

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the examination of the application and for the telephone interview granted Applicant's attorney on May 6, 2010. In view of the foregoing amendments and the remarks that follow, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the outstanding rejections.

Telephone Interview:

Applicant's attorney explained that claim 104 has been rewritten in independent form, and that the "tube" terminology has been replaced with "elongated elements". Claim 114 has been amended to emphasize that the opening of at least one section is arranged to provide access to the chamber of that section for a plurality of elongate elements having holes therein and extending in a preform longitudinally from the first end of the stack through to the section. The Examiner indicated that, based on her preliminary review, such changes appeared satisfactory.

Art Rejections:

Schulman:

Claims 97 - 99 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being allegedly unpatentable over USP 3,990,874, hereinafter *Schulman*. However, the introduction of claim 104 into the claims overcomes the rejection. Please note that the term "preform" has now been added to line 2 of claim 104, and was not in the version submitted to the Examiner for purposes of discussion.

Presby:

Claims 114 has been rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being allegedly unpatentable over WO 82/03345, hereinafter *Presby*.

Claim 114 has been amended to now recite that the opening of at least one section is arranged to provide access to the chamber of that section *for a plurality of elongate elements* having holes therein and extending in a preform longitudinally from the first end of the stack through to the section. Such a concept is not taught or suggested by *Presby*.

Accordingly, claim 114 is now patentable over the applied art.

Claim 111, although previously deemed allowable, has been amended to conform to the amendments to claims 104 and 114.

All pending claims are therefore now in condition for allowance.

In the event that there are any questions concerning this Amendment, or the application in general, the Examiner is respectfully urged to telephone the undersigned attorney so that prosecution of the application may be expedited.

Respectfully submitted,

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